

CHAPTER 8 – Agricultural profile of Cooloola Shire

Introduction

The following agricultural profile includes information on the agricultural commodities produced in Cooloola Shire sitting within the South East Queensland NRM region (pastures and grasses, crops, livestock, and livestock products) and information on agricultural practices (cultivation techniques, treatment of stubble, fertiliser use, and soil conditioner use). There is only one SLA included in Cooloola Shire: Cooloola (excl. Gympie). Only 11.9% of the Cooloola (excl. Gympie) SLA is included (See Figure 2 and Table 1.1).

An estimate of the number of agricultural holdings in the Cooloola Shire at June 2001 was 69. This estimate was derived from the Agricultural Census 2000-01.

Commodities

Pastures and grasses

Native or naturalised pastures represented 89.9% of the pastures in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01, sown pastures represented 9.6% and pastures cut for hay represented 0.5%. Pastures and grasses in the Cooloola Shire represented less than 1% of the total agricultural holdings for the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 8.1: Volume and value of pastures and grasses, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

Pastures and grasses	Volume		Area		Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total		
	t '000	ha '000	% of total ag. holdings in region	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	Vol	Area	Value	
Pastures cut for hay	0.15	0.027	0%	24	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Sown pastures	N/A	0.498	0.03%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	
Native or naturalised pasture	N/A	5	0.27%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	

N/A – Not Applicable

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Crops

Fruit and nuts (\$1.6m) produced the highest value of production for the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01; vegetable crops (\$1.2m) produced the second highest value of production. Crops produced in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 did not represent a significant percentage of either the total value of agriculture in the South East Queensland NRM region or the total production of these crops in Queensland.

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Table 8.2: Volume and value of crops, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

Crops	Volume		Area		Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total		
	t '000	ha '000	% of total ag. holdings in region	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	Vol	Area	Value	
Cereals for grain	0.004	0.00	0%	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Crops for hay	0.02	0.003	0%	N/A	N/A	0%	0%	N/A	
Sugar Cane	4	0	0%	87	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Fruit and nuts	N/A	0.29	0%	1,578	0%	N/A	1%	0%	
Vegetables	N/A	0.08	0%	1,169	0%	N/A	0%	0%	
Total	3.76	0.42		2,835					

N/A – Not Applicable

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Livestock

The highest value of production for livestock in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 was from cattle and calves (\$2.2m); cattle and calves also produced the highest value of production for all agricultural commodities produced in the shire in 2000-01. The second highest value of production for livestock in the shire in 2000-01 was from pigs (\$0.02m).

Table 8.3: Volume and value of livestock, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

Livestock	Number		Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total	
	No. of stock '000	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	No.	Value	
Cattle & calves	8 ^a	2,150 ^b	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	
Sheep & lambs	0	2 ^b	0%	0%	0%	
Pigs	0.16	28 ^b	0%	0%	0%	
Poultry	ND	0.61 ^b	0%	0%	0%	

ND – No data or insufficient data.

(a) The number of stock for cattle and calves includes the number of meat cattle and dairy cattle combined.

(b) These values represent the value of all slaughtered animals not the value of total livestock.

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Livestock products

The main livestock product produced in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 was cow's milk, with a value of production of \$2.5 million. The value of cow's milk production in the Cooloola Shire only represented 1% of the total value of cow's milk in Queensland.

Table 8.4: Volume and value of livestock products, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

Livestock Products	Volume			Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total
	Vol '000	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	Vol	Value	
Wool (t)	0	2	0%	0%	0%	
Cow milk production (L)	6,703	2,509	0.3%	0.8%	1%	

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Agricultural practices

Cultivation techniques

In total 71ha of land in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 was prepared for cropping, this represents only 0.2% of the total amount of land prepared for cropping in the South East Queensland NRM region. The small area of land cultivated in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 reflects the fact that only a small amount of cropping occurs in the Shire. The most common cultivation technique in the shire was 1 or 2 cultivations (74.6%), while the second most common method was not to cultivate at all (16.9%).

Table 8.5: Cultivation technique, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

Cultivation Technique	Area cultivated		Cultivation technique as a percentage of Queensland total
	ha '000	% of total area cultivated in region	
No cultivation	0.01	0%	0%
1 or 2 cultivations	0.05	0.2%	0%
Other cultivation technique	0.01	0.0%	0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Treatment of stubble

Only 48ha of stubble were treated in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01, again reflecting the small amount of cropping taking place in the shire. The most common method of stubble treatment was to remove by hot burn (60.4%), followed by ploughing the stubble into the soil (20.8%), removing the stubble by baling or heavy grazing (10.4%), and mulching the stubble (8.3%).

Table 8.6: Treatment of stubble, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

Treatment	Area treated		Stubble treatment as a percentage of Queensland total
	ha '000	% of total area treated in region	
Stubble ploughed into soil	0.010	0%	0%
Stubble mulched	0.004	0%	0%
Stubble removed by hot burn	0.029	0.1%	0%

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Stubble removed by baling or heavy grazing 0.005 0% 0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Fertiliser used

The volume of fertiliser used in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 represented 1.9% of the total amount of fertiliser used in the South East Queensland NRM region. Urea was the most common fertiliser used in the region in terms of both volume used and area treated.

Totals for hectares treated have not been included in Table 8.7; if more than one fertiliser was used on one hectare that hectare was counted twice in the agricultural census 2000-01, the total for hectares treated would therefore overestimate the number of hectares treated with fertiliser in the region.

Table 8.7: Fertiliser used, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

Fertiliser	Quantity used		Area treated		Fertiliser use as a percentage of Queensland total	
	t	ha	Area	Vol		
Urea	195	544	0%	0%		
Ammonium Sulphate	8	49	0%	0%		
Ammonium Nitrate	8	43	0%	0%		
Single Superphosphate	82	340	0%	1%		
Double Superphosphate	5	19	0%	0%		
Triple Superphosphate	2	8	0%	0%		
Muriate of Potash	28	152	0%	0%		
Potassium Sulphate	51	67	0%	1%		
Potassium Nitrate	2	7	0%	0%		
Mono Ammonium Phosphate	1	9	0%	0%		
Di Ammonium Phosphate	52	289	0%	0%		
Other	226	596	0%	0%		
Total	659	2123	0%	0%		

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Soil conditioner used

Most of the soil conditioners used in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 were used for correcting acidity (83%). Lime was the most common soil conditioner used (73.7%), with gypsum (11.9%) being the most common soil conditioner used to correct physical soil problems.

Table 8.8: Soil conditioner used, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

Soil conditioner	Quantity used		Area treated		Soil conditioner use as a percentage of Queensland total	
	t'000	ha'000	% of total ag. holdings in region	Area	Vol	
Lime - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.20	0.14	0.01%	0.4%	0%	
Dolomite - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.02	0.01	0%	0%	0%	
Dolomite - to correct physical soil problems	0.01	0.01	0%	0%	0%	
Gypsum - to correct physical soil problems	0.03	0.02	0%	0%	0%	

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

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Area irrigated

The total area of agricultural holding in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 was 13,858ha; of this area 646ha was irrigated, this represents 1.4% of the total area of land irrigated in the South East Queensland NRM region. The area irrigated in the Cooloola Shire only represents a small percentage of the total area of land irrigated in the Queensland.

Table 8.9: Area irrigated, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

	Area		Area irrigated as a percentage of Queensland total
	ha '000	% of total ag. holdings in region	Area
Total area of holding	14	1%	0%
Irrigated - total area	1	1.4%	0%
Non-irrigated - total area	13	0.8%	0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Natural resource management profile

Fencing to exclude grazing

Reasons for the construction of fencing to exclude grazing in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 included to protect creeks and rivers (38.8%), to protect planted trees and shrubs (37.6%), to protect remnant native vegetation (2.4%), and to protect other undefined areas (21.8%). The length of fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 represented 2% of the total length of fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 8.10: Fencing to exclude grazing, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

Reason	Length		Fencing to exclude grazing as a percentage of Queensland total
	km	% of total length of fencing constructed in region in 2000-01	Length
To protect remnant native vegetation	0.4	0.1%	0%
To protect planted trees and shrubs	6.4	1%	2%
To protect creeks and rivers	6.6	1%	0%
To protect other areas	3.7	0%	0%
Total fencing for all reasons	17	2%	

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Tree seedlings planted

The majority of tree seedlings planted in the Cooloola Shire in 2000-01 were planted for timber and wood pulp (42.5%) production. The second most common reason for planting seedlings in the shire was for the protection of land and water (24.3%), followed by nature conservation (15%), to enhance production (12.4%), and other purposes (5.8%). Seedlings planted in the shire represented 0.6% of all tree seedlings planted in the South East Queensland NRM region.

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Table 8.11: Tree seedlings planted, Cooloola Shire, 2000-01

Purpose of Planting	Number planted		Area planted		Seedlings and trees planted as a percentage of Queensland total	
	No. '000	% of seedlings planted in region in 2000-01	ha	% of total ag. holdings in region	No.	Area
Seedlings planted for nature conservation	0.2	0.1%	3	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for timber and wood pulp	0.6	0.3%	1	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for enhanced production	0.2	0.1%	174	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for protection of land and water	0.3	0.1%	2	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for all other purposes	0.1	0.0%	1	0%	0%	0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).